

MT. AIRY CLAY BREAKERS

With summer about over, it is time for Clay Breakers' monthly meetings to resume, and in an effort to shorten our business meeting, I thought I'd try a newsletter to get the ball rolling.

Our September 9th meeting will be at the home of Anne Rawlings and will be a flower arranging workshop. We hope to start promptly at 7:30 to allow as much time as possible for our program. Mrs. George Lee, a Master Flower Shop Judge, will be on hand to offer suggestions and to share her expertise with us.

Please be sure to bring the supplies you will need for your arrangements.....

A container - needle-point holder, oasis or other stem securing equipment - a sharp knife or flower shears - and, of course, flowers and greenery.

If you have extra flowers to share, I'm sure they will be appreciated.

I hope you've all received and read the Capital Gardener. If so you'll realize that our Sept program has been planned with the idea of supporting the District I Flower Show, "Reflections on Oxon Hill Manor". Our own Peggy Martin and Joyce Meyer are already very much involved and will be depending on us. Besides entries in design and horticulture, we are also being asked to help with some of the nitty-gritty work, especially in the wee hours of October 6th (8:00 am-10:00am) accepting and placing entries. So please give this some thought now and save some time on your calendar. I'll be asking for volunteers for that day.

Again referring to the Capital Gardener, it is now too early to be thinking of the Christmas Greens Exhibit at the Botanical Gardens. In the past individual Clay Breakers have exhibited, but as a club we've resisted the temptation to participate simply because our numbers are so few. However, this year's "Winter Wonderland" certainly is appealing and offers several classes which I'm sure we could handle, particularly in the West Wing's "Home for the Holidays". Please look over this schedule and think about what we might like to do.

I do hope you've all held onto your Clay Breakers Handbook from last year. It represented a great deal of work and research and best of all, much of the info is still current for this year. Therefore, replacement pages will be handed out at our meeting instead of whole new books. See how conservation minded we are!!!

Financially we were a success last year. In spite of no major fund raisers, we ended the year with a bank balance of \$412.92. Our little raffle each month seemed to keep pace with our program expenses, so I'd like to see this idea continued.

In an effort to combine both horticulture and design at every meeting, regardless of our program content, it would be nice if:-

1. Our hostess for the month would do a centerpiece. It's a great way to share ideas and if there was a problem getting the desired effect, perhaps between us we could reach a solution.
2. We would go back to the idea of each of us bringing a horticulture specimen for exhibit at each meeting.

I would be remiss if we didn't recognize Dot Singleton in this newsletter. She and Wes made our annual summer picnic possible and shared their lovely country garden with us. Many, many thanks for your gracious hospitality, Dot and Wes!!!

Lastly, REMEMBER GUESTS ARE WELCOME. Our membership is down and we need to grow. So look around you and invite a friend.

See you THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th, 7:30 P.M.

Anne DeBoeser

The September meeting of Mount Airy Clay Breakers was held at the home of Mrs. Anne Rawlings in Cheltenham. Mrs. Anne DeBoeser, President, called the meeting to order and welcomed eleven members and four guests, Mrs. Cheryl Thorpe, Mrs. Phyllis Tucker, Mrs. Karen Somers and Mrs. Marie Lee. Mrs. Lee was in charge of our program.

The roll was called and minutes read and approved. The Treasurer gave her report with a balance of \$412.92.

OLD BUSINESS: Thanks were expressed to Mrs. Dottie Singleton for the lovely time had by all at the August picnic held at her home.

Programs for the new year were discussed by Mrs. Margaret Hicks and Mrs. Anne DeBoeser. Plans are being finalized and the new pages for the yearbooks will be mailed to the members in a week or so.

Staff is needed at the Activity Center for September 15th. Ann Williams and Marie White offered to work.

Mrs. Peggy Martin announced that now is the time to begin planting bulbs at Holloway Park. Several members offered to donate bulbs and to help with the planting. Work will begin soon.

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made and carried that we enter the 1982 Christmas Greens Exhibition. We chose the theme "Home for the Holidays" - a mantle display.

Mrs. Anne DeBoeser announced that the Arboretum has requested our help in collecting seeds of the Dogwood tree to send to Japan in exchange for their gift of Japanese Cherry seeds. Several members volunteered to collect and dry the seeds and Mrs. Betty Abercrombie and Mrs. Peggy Martin will package and label them for the Arboretum.

A discussion was held regarding the Virginia Guild Horticulture Program. Hopefully our club can participate next year.

Mrs. Anne Deboeser asked for workers to help October 16 with the District I Flower Show. Several members offered to help.

Mrs. Peggy Martin presented each of our guests with a white Narcissus bulb from her garden.

A raffle was held to increase the treasury.

Business meeting adjourned.

The Program for the evening was a Flower Arranging Session. Mrs. Marie Lee began by demonstrating some of the techniques of arranging. She also shared with us a new book "Sketchbook of Easy Flower Design" by June Kahl - available at the Arboretum. Each member did an arrangement with Mrs. Lee's help and critique.

Delicious refreshments were served by our hostess and we also enjoyed her lovely arrangements throughout her home.

Betty Y. Abercrombie
Betty Y. Abercrombie - Recording Secretary